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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GUANGZHOU 000241

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STATE FOR EAP/CM, INR/EAP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2033/04/25

TAGS: PGOV CH

SUBJECT: Chinese Mind Emancipation at the Guangzhou Party School

¶11. (U) Classified by Consul General Robert Goldberg for reason 1.4 (d).

¶12. (C) SUMMARY: City leaders who do not sufficiently "emancipate their minds" (jiefang sixiang -- the latest Party buzzword) could face reassignment, according to senior staff at the Guangzhou Communist Party School. Even so, reform would not be allowed to endanger the stability of the Communist Party. Political reforms from the 17th Party Congress are not directly linked to the Mind Emancipation campaign, but share a common background, including a heavy dose of Hu Jintao's theory of Scientific Development. The Party School bills Mind Emancipation as a continuation of preexisting philosophies of opening and reform, with the campaign largely focusing on the training of cadres instead of the general public. END SUMMARY.

Incumbents Could Face Replacement

¶13. (C) Leaders who do not sufficiently "emancipate their minds" and overcome arrogance and complacency could face removal or transfer, according to Guangzhou Party School Executive Vice President Wang Yongping. Wang noted that, although the Mind Emancipation campaign would largely focus on economic reforms, political reforms could likely also take place at a measured pace. Wang was careful to note that any political reforms, including removing "outdated ideas," "must be done actively, but in a stable manner." He pointed to efforts to expand the oversight role of the municipal People's Congress as one example of acceptable change.

¶14. (C) Wang Yongping also said that, officially, the kind of political reform coming out of the 17th Party Congress shared a "common background" with, but was not directly connected to, Mind Emancipation. (Comment: This probably shows a desire by Guangdong Party Secretary Wang Yang to avoid being tagged with the politically uncomfortable label of "democratic reformer" by progressive -- or competing -- Communist Party (CPC) members or the public.)

A Continuation, not a Beginning

¶15. (C) Wang emphasized that the campaign called on individuals to "continue to emancipate their minds" and said that Mind Emancipation had been taking place in Guangdong Province for decades. Feng (full name unknown), who teaches at the Party School, noted that the Mind Emancipation campaign was well timed to correspond with a study by Guangdong Province of the past 30 years of development. Wang went on to say that, though

theoretically "there is no end to mind emancipation," the period of "study and discussion" would end late 2008 or early 2009, to be followed by a period of local-level implementation.

No Unified Implementation Plan

¶6. (C) Resisting the idea that Mind Emancipation was primarily a Guangdong phenomenon, Party School instructor Li (full name unknown) noted that Guangxi, Hebei and Anhui were also conducting similar campaigns, but that Guangdong admittedly was in the vanguard. Party School instructor Yin (full name unknown) explained that the overall campaign is loosely directed by Beijing through general instructions to provincial CPCs, which then develop implementation plans for their respective provinces and municipalities, using Scientific Development and statements from the 17th Party Congress as guides. (Comment: In addition to allowing each provincial CPC to adapt Mind Emancipation to its particular situation, the decentralized implementation system also will likely encourage competition between provincial party secretaries as each vies to be the most innovative -- and

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to have his province chosen as the national model for Mind Emancipation.)

Cadres First

¶7. (C) In response to the question of the public's role in Mind Emancipation, Wang said that the campaign currently focuses on Communist Party members. Leading cadres working in bureaus -- especially those providing public services -- are the primary target. According to one of the

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instructors, Guangdong benefits from having a large number of cadres in their 40s who have witnessed the entire cycle of development over the past 20 years, and who are generally enthusiastic about the Mind Emancipation campaign. Though he said that Party members "at all levels" should take part in the program, and that he considered grassroots CPC activities to include the "general public," the comments of Wang and others made clear that in Guangzhou, at least, the campaign so far had been limited to the CPC.

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